

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT DESIGNATED OFFICE (DO/US)
(National Phase of International App.: PCT/DE00/04134, W/O 01/38021 A1)

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In re the
application of: **Christian BOEHNKE**

International Application No.: **PCT/DE00/04134**

International Filing Date: **November 21, 2000**

U.S. Serial No.: **Not Yet Assigned**

Filed: **Herewith**

For: **METHOD AND DEVICE FOR THE
PRODUCTION OF LIGHT-METAL PELLETS**

Attorney Docket No.: **HHI-032US**

BOX PCT
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to examination of the above-referenced patent application, please amend the enclosed above-titled International patent application as follows.

In the Specification

Page 1, line 2, after the title, insert the following "**Background of the Invention**".

Page 1, line 4, please replace the paragraph with the following:
--The present invention relates to a method and device for producing light-metal pellets.--

Page 1, line 26, insert the following title: "**Summary of the Invention**".

Page 1, lines 31-33, please delete this paragraph.

Page 4, line 9, insert the following title: "**Brief Description of the Drawings**".

Page 4, line 18, please insert the following title: "**Description of Illustrated Embodiment**".

In the Claims

Please amend claims 1-9 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for producing light-metal pellets, comprising feeding molten light metal into a gap between two cooling bodies, dividing the molten light metal into pellets of specified size along attenuation lines or by completely separating them before the pellets solidify, and adding fibers, particles or similar additives before the molten light metal enters the gap.

2. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, comprising synchronously moving the cooling bodies from an initial arrangement in which surfaces of the cooling bodies are spaced a certain distance from each other, into a second arrangement in which the surfaces move close together to form the gap, and subsequently move back into the spaced arrangement.

3. (Amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein in the step of moving, the motion from the initial to the third arrangement of the cooling bodies occurs from top to bottom, further comprising the step of feeding the molten light metal into a funnel formed between the cooling bodies.